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# Understanding the Unemployed Workforce in Milwaukee County

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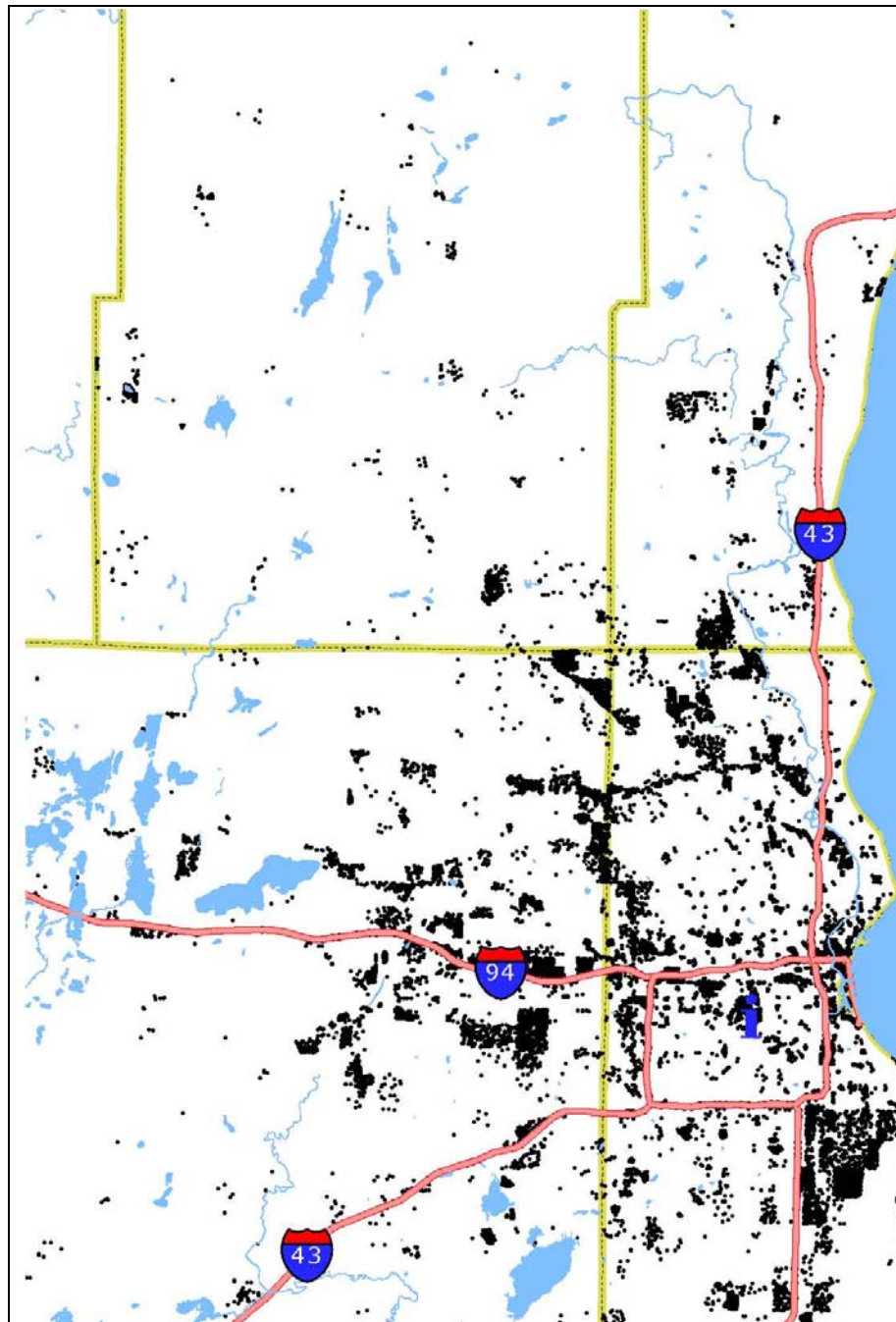
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## Understanding the Unemployed Workforce in Milwaukee County



Job Sites of Laid-Off Workers with Prior Quarterly Earnings of \$10,000+

*Prepared for the  
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board  
and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
by the Employment and Training Institute  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
2009*

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This report is one of a series of four studies prepared for the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to describe the characteristics of the Milwaukee area labor force, identify the education and training needs of the workforce in key occupations, and detail barriers to employment for targeted populations. The work uses institutional, administrative and census databases to aid MAWIB in setting priorities and improving strategies for service to Milwaukee County workers during the difficult economic period the community is now facing. Research for this report was supported by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, the Fitch Research Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board works in partnership with local leaders from government, private industry and labor to develop workforce solutions to meet and anticipate regional economic development needs. For employers, MAWIB offers specialized training programs and

innovative human resource services to provide the skilled workers they need to remain competitive and contribute to a robust economy. For job seekers, MAWIB provides the resources to keep pace with today's job market.



The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of over 1,000 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties and beyond. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world.



The Employment and Training Institute addresses the workforce training, transportation, and education needs of low-income and unemployed workers in Wisconsin through applied research, policy development, and technical assistance. For more information, contact John Pawasarat, Director, Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 161 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 6000, Milwaukee, WI 53203 ([eti@uwm.edu](mailto:eti@uwm.edu)). Website: [www.eti.uwm.edu](http://www.eti.uwm.edu).

## Introduction

**For this report the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute (ETI) analyzed the employment history of 48,131 workers in Milwaukee County who were laid off their jobs and recently have received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.** These workers held sufficient sustained employment to qualify for UI payments, and many are currently unemployed. The workers' quarterly wages and number and types of employer were examined for five quarters (from October 2007 to December 2008). Their unemployment insurance (UI) benefits were examined for Second Quarter of 2009 (April-June 2009). Six difficult-to-serve subpopulations were examined in detail -- ex-offenders in the Department of Corrections (DOC) system, participants in the Shares child care subsidy program, public assistance cases with children, adult FoodShare cases with no children, aged and/or disabled population on public assistance, and W-2 cases.

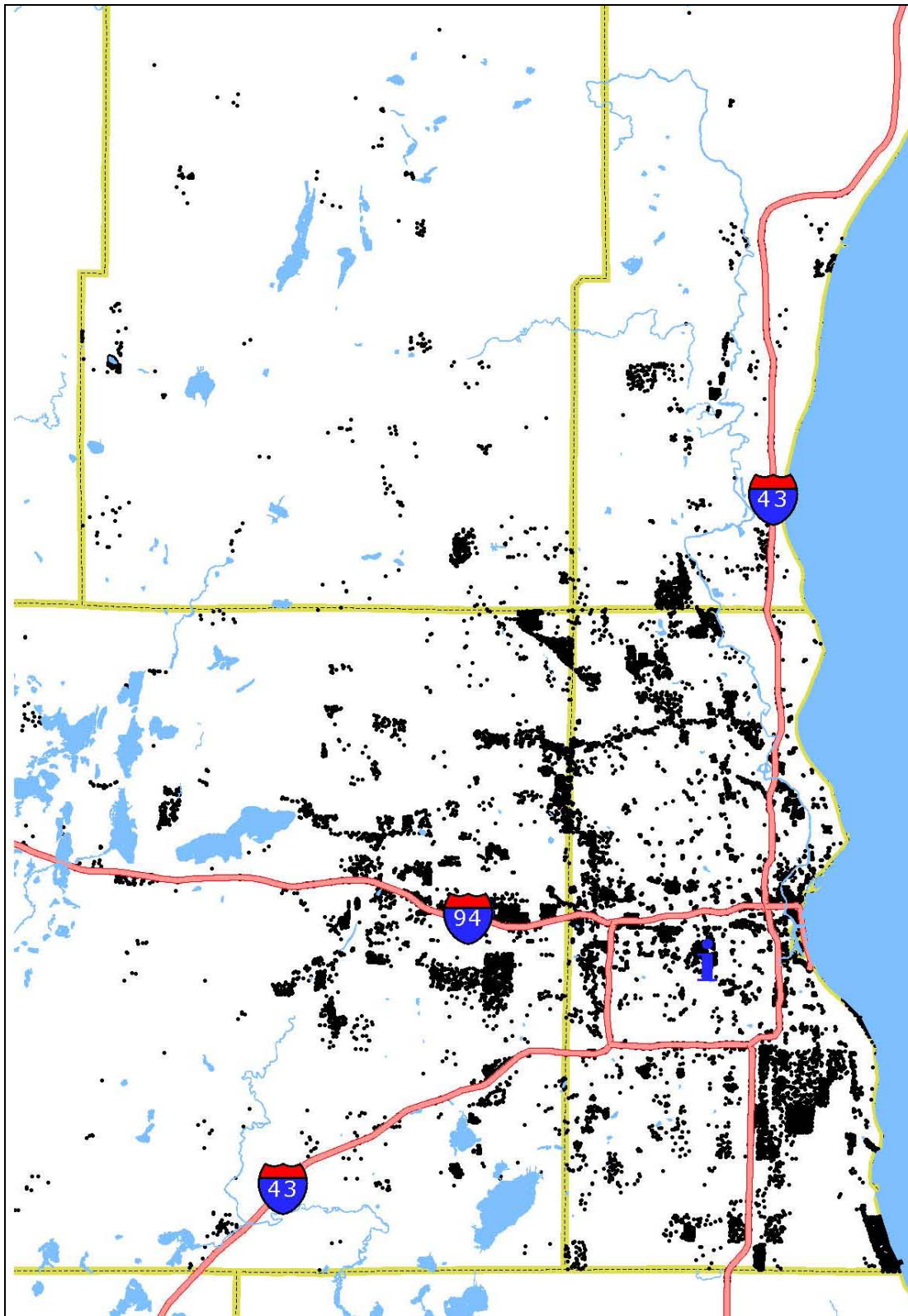
The strength of this analysis and its timing are that it captures a large portion of the local workforce who has been laid off and on UI in recent months. This research is being conducted for the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), with additional funding support from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, in an effort to better understand the workforce development needs of the unemployed and underemployed populations in Milwaukee County and to improve the delivery of the federal-state WIA (Workforce Investment Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) programs. The long-term goals of the ETI technical assistance projects are to improve employment placements for UI and TANF populations and to reduce UI and TANF costs by removing barriers clients face in finding sustained employment. Particularly hard hit by the economic recession are at-risk subpopulations, some with low or expired unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and other UI claimants with no other federal or state benefits. These subpopulations are a special focus of the research.

*Note: Other populations of unemployed workers do not qualify for UI payments because (1) they had not worked a sufficient number of months prior to layoff, (2) their jobs were with employers not part of the UI system, (3) they left their jobs and were unable to find other work, and/or (4) they have stopped looking for employment.*

## Findings

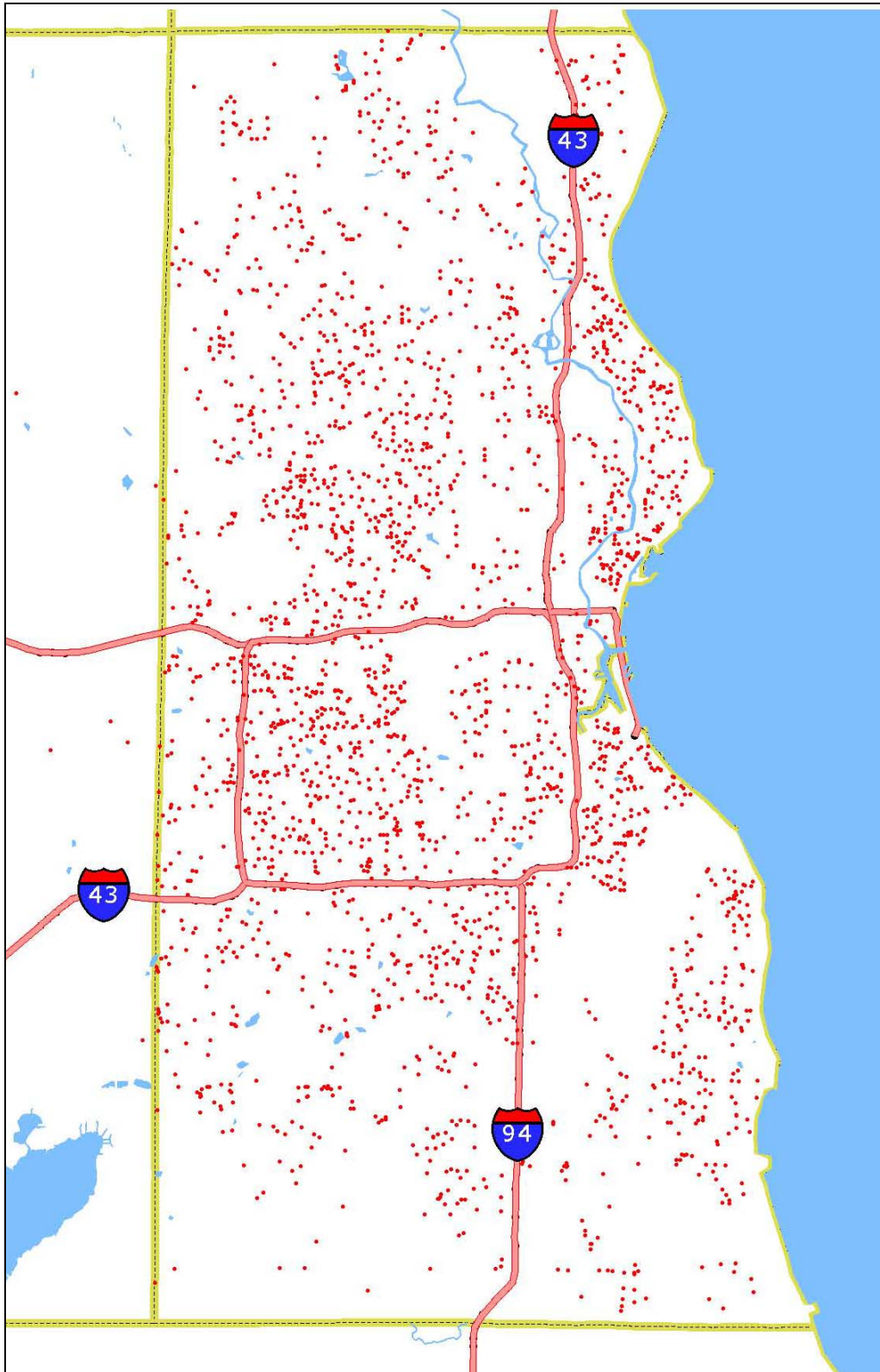
1. The manufacturing sector showed the sharpest decline and largest wage losses for Milwaukee County workers. For those 14,747 workers earning at least \$10,000 in either their last or second to last quarter of employment, 57% were employed in manufacturing industries and another 24% were employed in construction.

**Job Sites of Laid-Off Workers in Milwaukee County  
with Prior Quarterly Earnings of \$10,000 or More**



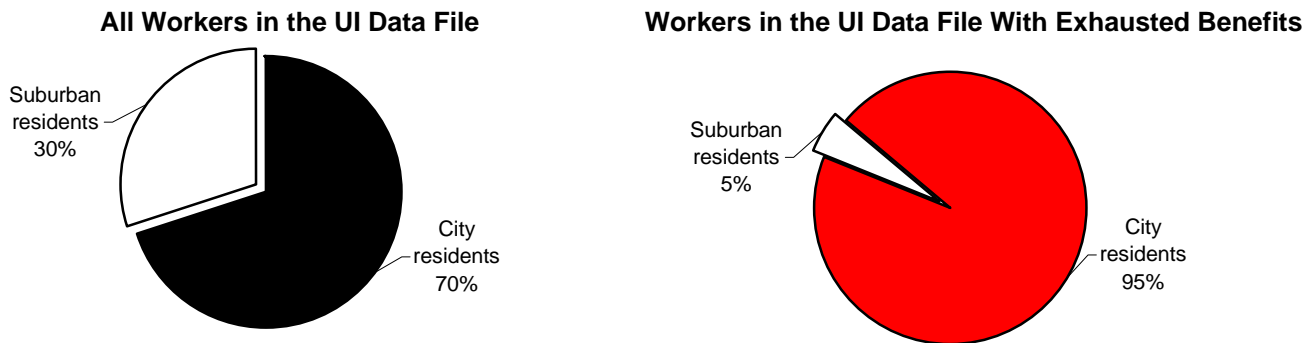


**Residence of Laid-Off Workers in Milwaukee County  
with Prior Quarterly Earnings of \$10,000 or More**



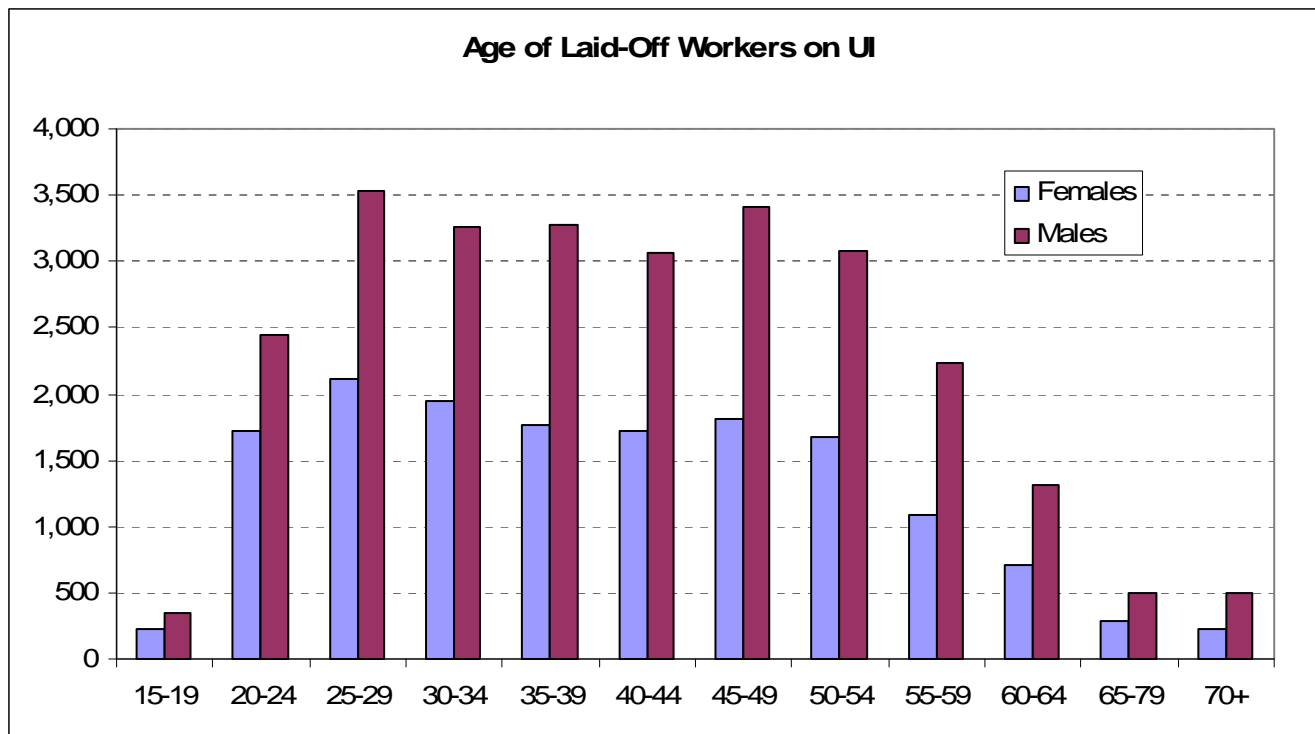
The downturn in the economy was felt throughout Milwaukee County with 30% of the county's UI population living in the suburbs and 70% in the City of Milwaukee. However, 95% of those with exhausted benefits were city rather than suburban residents.

### MILWAUKEE COUNTY LAID-OFF WORKERS



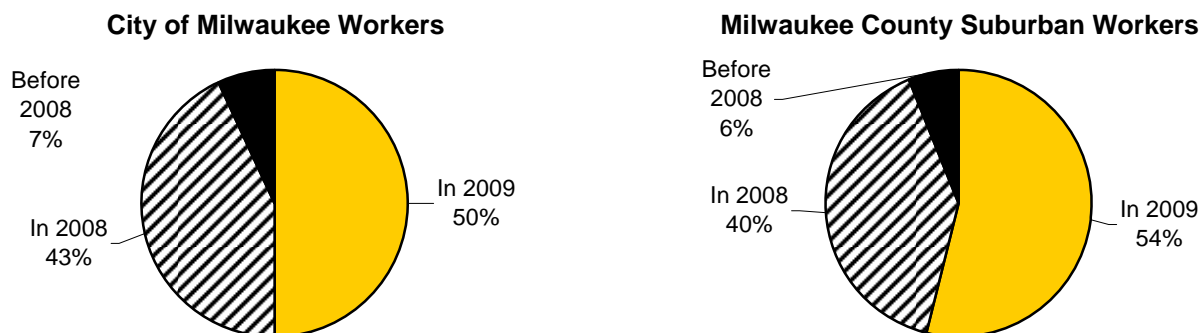
2. Two-thirds (67%) of the UI recipients in the Milwaukee County suburbs had weekly benefits greater or equal to \$300/week while slightly less than half (48%) of city residents on UI had weekly benefits of \$300 or above. Benefit levels are determined by prior earnings, with the maximum weekly benefit set at \$355 (later raised to \$363).
3. For the Milwaukee County suburban population receiving unemployment insurance benefits, 81% had a maximum benefit level established of \$5,000 or more (for the benefit year) and 50% had a benefit maximum of \$9,000 or more. Among city residents on UI, 69% had maximum benefit levels of \$5,000 or more and only 35% had maximum benefit levels of \$9,000 or more.
4. The 48,131 Milwaukee County workers in the UI benefit system included a number of **difficult-to-serve populations**:
  - **7,232 were ex-offenders** in the Department of Corrections (DOC) system. Of that group 20% are also receiving public assistance (FoodShare, BadgerCare and/or W-2). A substantial portion (39%) had seen their UI benefits expire as of Quarter 2, 2009.
  - **5,240 were W-2 clients.**
  - **2,097 were single parents who had participated in the Wisconsin Shares** child care subsidy program and with children under age 6.
  - **3,971 were parents with school age children** (receiving some form of public assistance) and who had exhausted their UI benefits.
5. Those enrolled in public assistance programs (FoodShare, BadgerCare and W-2) accounted for 22% of the suburban UI population, while 35% of the City residents on UI were also in public assistance programs.

6. The age of the Milwaukee County workforce that has been recently laid off is of particular concern, as most workers are of prime working age. Eighty percent of the UI population is ages 25 through 59, and only 8% are aged 60 and above. The young adult population (under age 25) receiving UI also comprises a significant workforce group.



7. Of the Milwaukee residents included in the UI database of laid-off workers recently receiving UI benefits, half had applied for their benefits in 2009, 43% in 2008, and 7% before 2008. Of the Milwaukee County suburban residents in the UI database, 54% had applied for their UI in 2009, 40% in 2008, and 6% before 2008.

#### WHEN UI CLAIMANTS APPLIED FOR THEIR BENEFITS

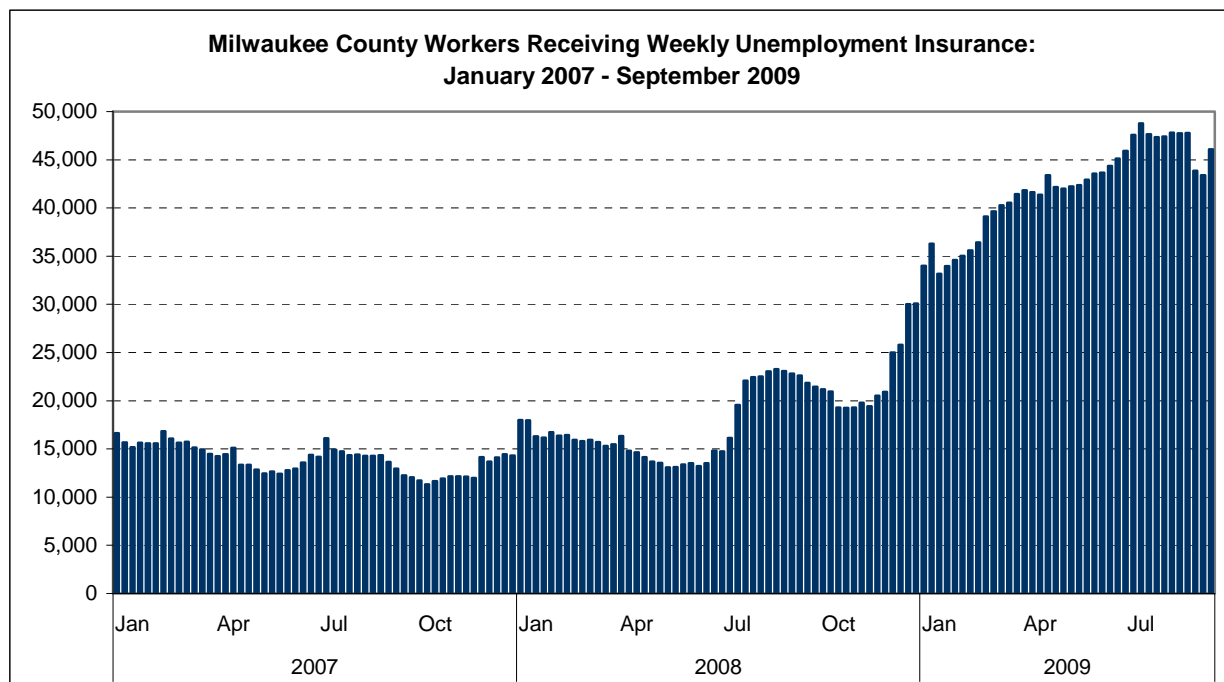




## I. Background on the UI Population

The federal-state unemployment insurance program provides temporary partial wage replacements to workers who are out of work involuntarily and who are actively seeking work or waiting to be called back to their current employment. Benefit levels depend on workers' recent earnings experience as well as any sources of part-time employment.

The population of workers in Milwaukee County receiving unemployment compensation due to layoffs has increased dramatically over the last three years. In the first week of January 2007, 16,619 workers were receiving weekly UI payments. By January 2009 that number had escalated to 33,999, and by the end of September 2009 was at 46,073. The unemployment insurance program offers modest temporary relief ranging from a low of \$54 a week (for workers with prior quarterly earnings of at least \$1,350) to a maximum of \$363 per week (for workers with prior quarterly earnings of \$9,075 or above). Laid-off workers may receive up to 26 months of payments in a benefit year (i.e., from \$1,404 to \$9,438). In times of economic distress, additional weeks may be added to the payment period.

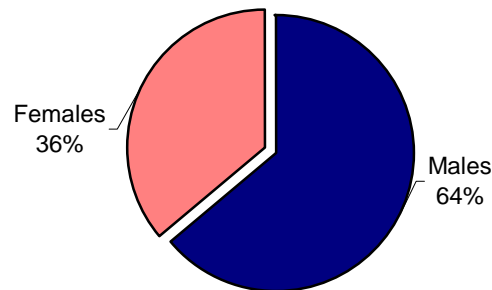


A large portion of the unemployed population in Milwaukee County has been included in the UI database secured by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute for this study. The database includes all UI recipients in the state file as of Second Quarter 2009, along with their UI payment data for Second Quarter 2009 and covered wages earned from First Quarter 2007 through Fourth Quarter 2008. Under the data sharing agreement the data records were matched against Department of Transportation, TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), and Department of Corrections files in order to provide summary profiles of worker needs.

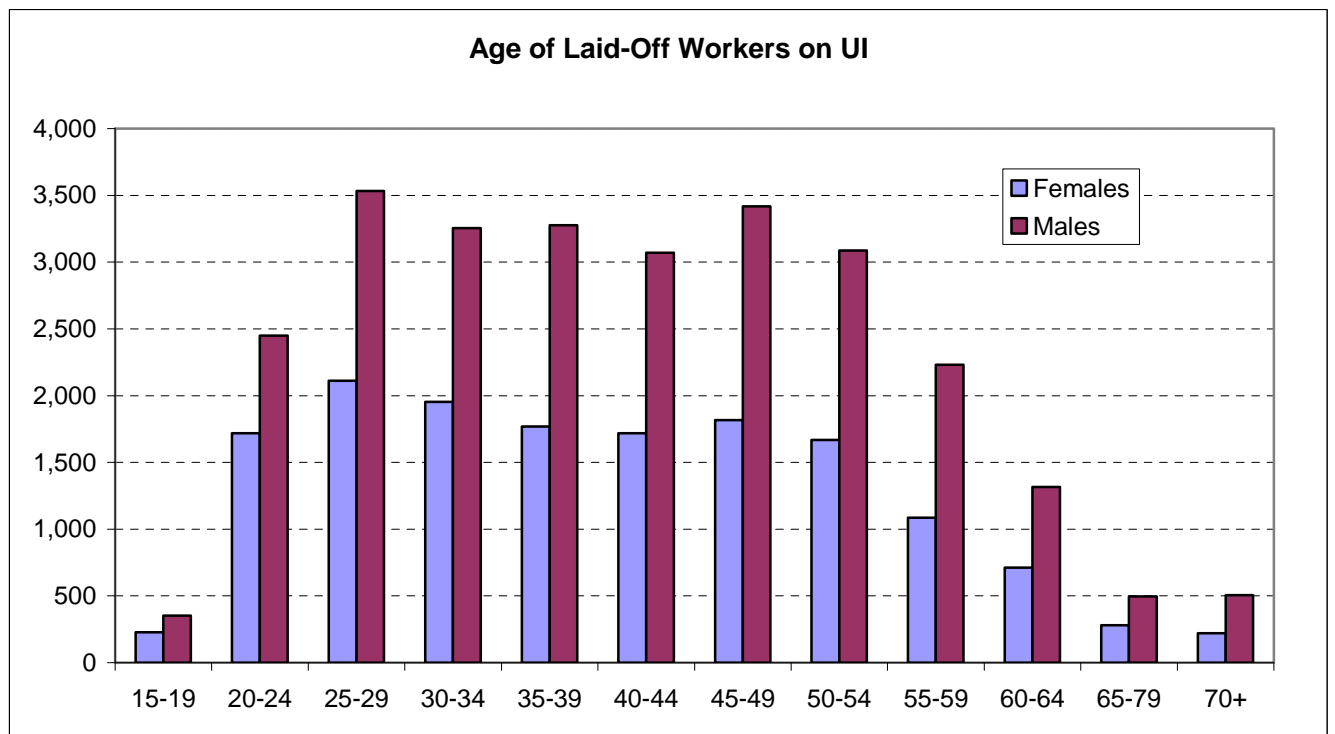
## II. Demographics of the Laid-Off Workforce

Men make up nearly two-thirds (64%) of the workers laid-off and receiving unemployment insurance.

**Gender of the Laid-Off Population on Unemployment Insurance**

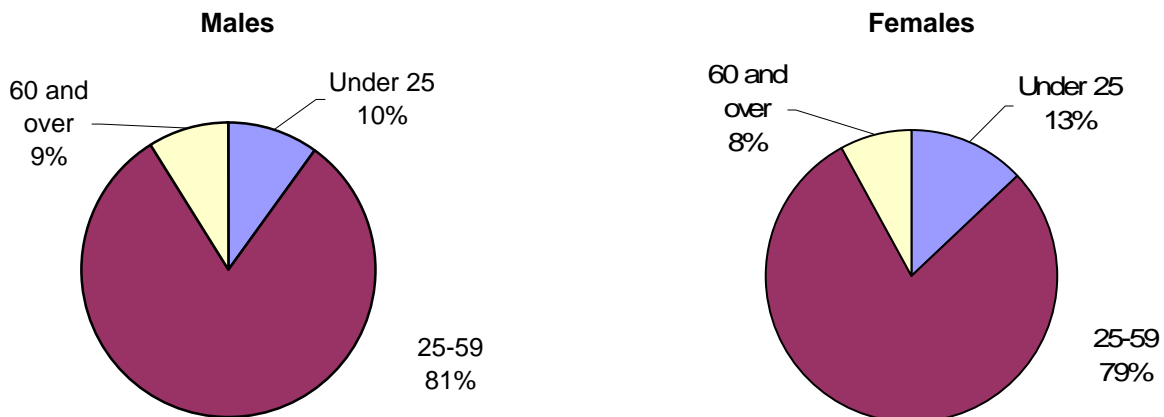


The age of the Milwaukee County workers who have been recently laid off is of particular concern, as most workers are of prime working age.



- **Eighty percent of the UI population is ages 25 through 59**, and only 8% are aged 60 and above.
- The young adult population (under age 25) receiving UI also comprise a significant workforce group in need of services to ensure their successful reentry to the workforce.

### Age of Milwaukee County Laid-Off Workers (N=42,270 with age data)



As of Quarter 2 of 2009, 45,914 county residents had recently been laid off and received unemployment insurance payments, and of these, 43,105 were receiving UI benefits in the quarter. (Another 2,217 workers were previous UI recipients but without UI records retrieved.)

- Laid-off workers on UI lived throughout the county, with the highest numbers in Milwaukee (33,624), the western suburbs of West Allis (3,064) and Wauwatosa (1,196) and the southside suburbs of Greenfield (1,610), Oak Creek (1,418), South Milwaukee (1,134), and Cudahy (1,088).

### Milwaukee County Residents Receiving Unemployment Insurance

| MUNICIPALITY            | Females       | Males         | Total         | % of Total    |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| BAYSIDE                 | 26            | 36            | 62            | 0.1%          |
| BROWN DEER              | 185           | 275           | 460           | 1.0%          |
| CUDAHY                  | 374           | 714           | 1,088         | 2.4%          |
| FOX POINT               | 51            | 44            | 95            | 0.2%          |
| GREENDALE               | 172           | 290           | 462           | 1.0%          |
| GREENFIELD              | 549           | 1,061         | 1,610         | 3.5%          |
| HALES CORNERS           | 124           | 206           | 330           | 0.7%          |
| <b>MILWAUKEE</b>        | <b>14,174</b> | <b>19,450</b> | <b>33,624</b> | <b>73.2%</b>  |
| OAK CREEK               | 474           | 944           | 1,418         | 3.1%          |
| RIVER HILLS             | 12            | 18            | 30            | 0.1%          |
| SAINT FRANCIS           | 170           | 330           | 500           | 1.1%          |
| SHOREWOOD               | 91            | 151           | 242           | 0.5%          |
| SOUTH MILWAUKEE         | 366           | 768           | 1,134         | 2.5%          |
| WAUWATOSA               | 469           | 727           | 1,196         | 2.6%          |
| WEST ALLIS              | 1,006         | 2,058         | 3,064         | 6.7%          |
| WEST MILWAUKEE          | 138           | 266           | 404           | 0.9%          |
| WHITEFISH BAY           | 78            | 117           | 195           | 0.4%          |
| <b>MILWAUKEE COUNTY</b> | <b>18,459</b> | <b>27,455</b> | <b>45,914</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

- While laid-off workers were spread throughout the county, they were heavily concentrated in the county's poorest zip codes. Over a third (35%) lived in the 9 inner city zip codes 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, 53210, 53212, 53216, 53218 and 53233.

Milwaukee County Residents Receiving UI by Zip Code

| Zip Code | Males | Females | Total | Zip Code   | Males         | Females       | Total         |
|----------|-------|---------|-------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 53204    | 1,171 | 662     | 1,833 | 53209      | 1,589         | 1,382         | 2,971         |
| 53205    | 377   | 351     | 728   | 53211      | 409           | 234           | 643           |
| 53206    | 1,014 | 910     | 1,924 | 53213      | 509           | 289           | 798           |
| 53208    | 1,129 | 862     | 1,991 | 53214      | 1,428         | 722           | 2,150         |
| 53210    | 958   | 912     | 1,870 | 53215      | 1,917         | 975           | 2,892         |
| 53212    | 1,002 | 829     | 1,831 | 53217      | 309           | 272           | 581           |
| 53216    | 1,152 | 1,048   | 2,200 | 53220      | 890           | 447           | 1,337         |
| 53218    | 1,669 | 1,368   | 3,037 | 53221      | 1,134         | 593           | 1,727         |
| 53233    | 218   | 176     | 394   | 53222      | 603           | 440           | 1,043         |
| 53110    | 714   | 374     | 1,088 | 53223      | 872           | 697           | 1,569         |
| 53129    | 290   | 172     | 462   | 53224      | 624           | 557           | 1,181         |
| 53130    | 202   | 120     | 322   | 53225      | 928           | 813           | 1,741         |
| 53132    | 702   | 408     | 1,110 | 53226      | 296           | 211           | 507           |
| 53154    | 944   | 474     | 1,418 | 53227      | 790           | 428           | 1,218         |
| 53172    | 780   | 368     | 1,148 | 53228      | 436           | 206           | 642           |
| 53202    | 426   | 229     | 655   | 53235      | 332           | 173           | 505           |
| 53207    | 1,227 | 674     | 1,901 | <b>ALL</b> | <b>27,041</b> | <b>18,376</b> | <b>45,417</b> |

- The number of weeks and amount paid varied based on prior employment weeks and wages with 11,920 receiving the maximum payment (\$365 per week) of which 3,538 received this payment for all weeks.
- At the low end, 3,923 workers received less than \$100 per week with 818 workers receiving payments below \$100 for each week in the quarter.
- As of June 13, 2009, the average weekly benefit payments were \$269 with benefits ranging from low average benefits of \$222 in zip code 53205 and \$227 in zip code 53206 to high average benefits of \$319 in zip code 53217.

### UI Used, UI Left

The Milwaukee County UC population totaled 48,130 in Second Quarter 2009. Of these, 17,432 had exhausted their UC by the end of the Quarter 2 of 2009, and 21,757 remained on UC, while 27,544 were no longer on UC but had not exhausted their benefits.

- By the end of the second quarter of 2009, 16,742 workers had exhausted their benefits and 5,468 had only 1 to 6 weeks left, as indicated in the database.

### Number of Weeks of UI Benefits Left at End of Quarter 2, 2009

| Weeks of UI Benefits Remaining | Number of Workers | % of Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| None                           | 16,742            | 36%        |
| 1 to 6 weeks                   | 5,468             | 12%        |
| 7 to 12 weeks                  | 7,009             | 15%        |
| 13 to 18 weeks                 | 7,341             | 16%        |
| 19 to 24 weeks                 | 8,084             | 17%        |
| 25 to 26 weeks                 | 1,835             | 4%         |
| TOTAL                          | 46,479            | 100%       |

Totals may vary by table due to missing data fields and selection criteria.

- Thirty-eight percent of the workers whose benefits had expired as of June 2009 lived in the 9 high-poverty CDBG zip code areas.
- One-half of the UC participants in zip codes 53205 and 53206 had lost their benefits. These zip codes had the highest percentage of workers whose UI benefits had run out. The north shore (53217) had the lowest percentage of workers with exhausted UI benefits.



### III. Difficult-to-Serve Populations

#### A. State DOC Prison Population

One of the significant subpopulations in the UI file is the state Department of Corrections populations of individuals who have been incarcerated in state facilities and/or placed on probation and parole. Analysis was conducted of individuals from the DOC system who have been enrolled in the UI system and were active in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009. A total of 6,822 individuals from the DOC population received UI in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009.

- Of these, 6,187 (91%) were men and 635 (9%) were women.
- By the end of Quarter 2, 2009, 2,793 of the ex-offenders in the UI population had exhausted their UI benefits, 1,912 had less than 12 weeks of benefits remaining, and 2,213 had more than 11 weeks of benefits remaining, according to the state UI database.
- For the ex-offender population weekly UI payments averaged \$258 per week. Weekly benefit payments ranged from less than \$100 up to \$363 a week.
- On average, women had lower payments than men; 32% of male ex-offenders receiving UI earned the maximum benefit payments, compared to only 12% of the female ex-offenders receiving UI.

**Unemployment Insurance Payments for Ex-Offenders**  
(Quarter 2, 2009)

| <b>Weekly Benefit Level</b> | <b>Total Recipients</b> | <b>Males</b> | <b>Females</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| \$50 -- 100                 | 515                     | 7%           | 14%            |
| \$100 – 149                 | 696                     | 9%           | 17%            |
| \$150 – 199                 | 881                     | 12%          | 19%            |
| \$200 – 249                 | 944                     | 14%          | 14%            |
| \$250 – 299                 | 806                     | 12%          | 14%            |
| \$300 – 349                 | 828                     | 12%          | 10%            |
| \$355/363 (Maximum)         | 2,078                   | 32%          | 12%            |
| Total                       | 6,748                   | 100%         | 100%           |

- Wages earned in the five quarters (15 months) prior to 2009 showed higher average earnings for men compared to women within the DOC subpopulation. Both groups, however, had low average wages – men with wages averaging less than \$500 a week and women with wages of around \$340 a week.

#### Prior Employment History of the DOC Population Receiving Unemployment Insurance

|                | <b>Men</b>          |                        | <b>Women</b>        |                        |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Quarter</b> | <b># with Wages</b> | <b>Avg. Qtr. Wages</b> | <b># with Wages</b> | <b>Avg. Qtr. Wages</b> |
| Qtr 4, 2007    | 5,072               | \$6,711                | 527                 | \$4,643                |
| Qtr 1, 2008    | 4,829               | \$6,061                | 510                 | \$4,448                |
| Qtr 2, 2008    | 4,958               | \$6,275                | 497                 | \$4,473                |
| Qtr 3, 2008    | 4,862               | \$6,546                | 480                 | \$4,487                |
| Qtr 4, 2008    | 4,407               | \$6,388                | 458                 | \$4,183                |

- Average quarterly earnings were far below the poverty threshold for female ex-offenders in the UI population. The number of public assistance (i.e., FoodShare, BadgerCare Plus, and/or W-2) participants in the DOC population totaled 390 of 527 women and 1,923 of 6,187 men.
- By June 2009, only 284 of the 2,313 recipients of FoodShare and public assistance showed reported earnings in the public assistance files.
- Wisconsin Shares subsidized child care participants were low among the ex-offender population with only 129 individuals receiving Shares payments in 2008 and 2009.

## **B. Wisconsin Shares Participants in the UI File**

The unemployment insurance file detailed 2,424 women with Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy participation in 2008 and 2009 (and who were not in the DOC population).

- The Shares participants qualifying for and receiving unemployment compensation had very low average wages – below \$4,000 a quarter (below \$16,000 annualized).

### **Prior Employment History of Shares Participants Receiving Unemployment Insurance**

| <b>Quarter</b> | <b># with Wages</b> | <b>Avg. Qtr. Wages</b> |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Qtr 4, 2007    | 2,017               | \$3,865                |
| Qtr 1, 2008    | 1,994               | \$3,569                |
| Qtr 2, 2008    | 2,008               | \$3,783                |
| Qtr 3, 2008    | 1,977               | \$3,565                |
| Qtr 4, 2008    | 1,831               | \$3,507                |

- Given their low prior wages, the weekly UI benefit payment was very low for most of the 2,424 Shares parents in the UI payment file.

| <b>Weekly Benefit Level</b>       | <b>Number</b> | <b>% of Total</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| \$50 – 100                        | 326           | 14%               |
| \$100 – 149                       | 516           | 21%               |
| \$150 – 199                       | 531           | 22%               |
| \$200 – 249                       | 443           | 18%               |
| \$250 – 299                       | 298           | 12%               |
| \$300 – 349                       | 128           | 5%                |
| \$350 to maximum (\$355 or \$363) | 182           | 8%                |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>2,424</b>  | <b>100%</b>       |

- The Shares child care subsidies for the 2,424 cases in the UI payment file totaled \$21.3 million in 2008 and \$51 million in First Quarter 2009.
- UC payments for Shares participants rose from 1,590 women to 2,036 in the second quarter of 2009.

- Most cases (97%, or 2,353 of 2,424) were receiving some receiving some form of public assistance (FoodShare, W-2 and/or BadgerCare) in June 2009, including 2,067 (85%) who were on FoodShare.
- Of the 2,067 FS cases, 1,037 had exhausted their UI benefits as of June 2009, and 867 reported earnings in June 2009.

### C. UI Recipients with Children But No Shares Subsidies

In addition to the DOC and Shares populations, there were 2,514 women in the UI population with children on public assistance (FoodShare, BadgerCare Plus, and/or W-2). Of these, 1,496 women had children six years of age or under.

### D. Adult FoodShare Cases with No Children in the Household

During 2009, 4,884 adults without children were on FoodShare and in the UI benefit population.

- These included 4,048 single person cases, most with very low wages and very low weekly UI payments. Over half (57%) received less than \$200 in UI payments a week. The population overall showed average quarterly wages of \$3,564.
- Of those remaining on FoodShare, as of June 2009 only 406 (10%) had earned income; 1,230 (30%) had no earned or unearned income; and 2,412 (60%) had no earned income but showed unearned income.

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### ***Other Populations, NOT Receiving Unemployment Insurance: Aged and/or Disabled on Public Assistance***

*During the first half of 2009, a total of 41,561 individuals were on public assistance (FoodShare and/or BadgerCare) with SSI or social security or aged 60 and older (and with no children on FoodShare). The adults on FoodShare totaled 22,631, of which 18,020 were 1-person FS cases.*

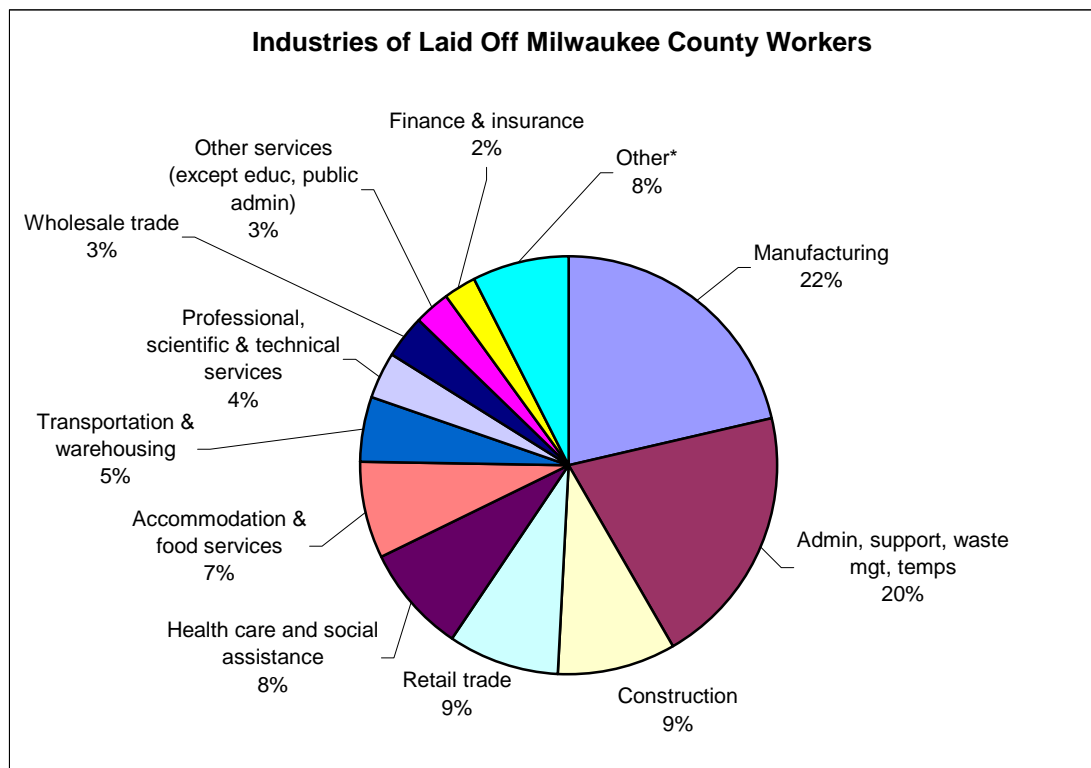
#### **Aged and/or Disabled Populations on Public Assistance** (with no children, and not receiving unemployment insurance)

| <b>Age</b>            | <b>Females</b> | <b>Males</b>  | <b>Total</b>  |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 18-19                 | 431            | 474           | 905           |
| 20-24                 | 570            | 407           | 977           |
| 25-29                 | 874            | 428           | 1,302         |
| 30-34                 | 1,119          | 535           | 1,655         |
| 35-39                 | 1,398          | 705           | 2,103         |
| 40-44                 | 1,709          | 994           | 2,703         |
| 45-49                 | 2,024          | 1,474         | 3,498         |
| 50-54                 | 2,244          | 1,671         | 3,915         |
| 55-59                 | 2,063          | 1,532         | 3,595         |
| Subtotal under age 60 | 12,432         | 8,220         | 20,652        |
| 60 and above          | 14,004         | 6,905         | 20,909        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>26,436</b>  | <b>15,125</b> | <b>41,561</b> |

#### IV. Analysis of Laid-Off Workers by Industry

The employment history of laid-off workers was examined by industry of prior earnings.

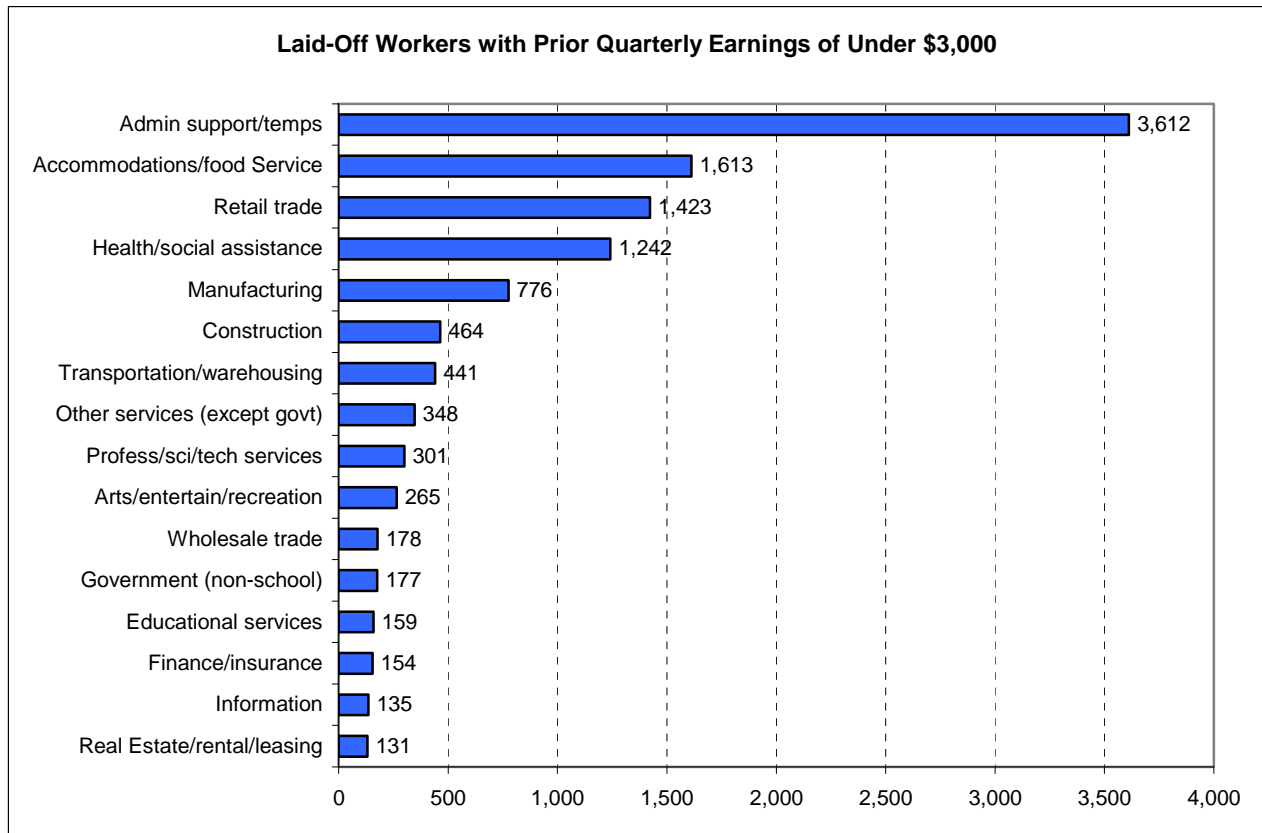
- The largest number of workers losing their jobs in Milwaukee County worked in manufacturing, where 12,693 workers had unemployment insurance payments due to layoffs.
- Other hard-hit industries included administrative support (including temp agencies) with 11,802 workers on UI, construction with 5,458 workers on UI, retail trade with 5,092 workers on UI, health and social services with 4,943 workers on UI, and accommodations and food service with 4,387 workers on UI.
- Among the industries with fewer layoffs were utilities (with only 68 workers on UI); local, state and federal *[excluding schools, hospitals and postal services]* governments (with 765 workers on UI); and educational services (with 825 workers on UI).



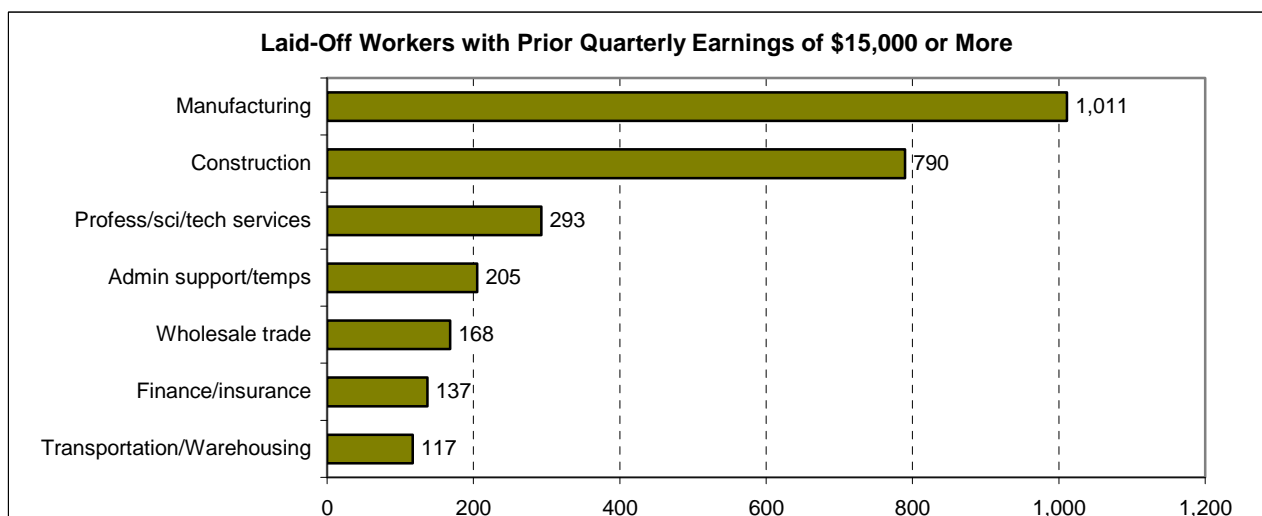
\*Other includes arts/entertainment/recreation (2%), information (2%), educational services (1%), government/non-school (1%), real estate/rental/leasing (1%), and management of companies, utilities, and hunting/fishing/ag (all under 1%).

The prior wage history of workers was examined by industry. Each industry includes workers at all levels of the companies. For example, the UI workforce in the “transportation and warehousing industries” (NAICS codes 480000-499999) could include warehouse workers, postal workers, accountants, security guards, HR staff, managers, truck drivers, etc.

The largest number of workers with very low quarterly earnings of \$3,000 or less (under \$12,000 annualized) were laid off from employment in temp agencies, accommodations and food services, retail trade, and health and social assistance industries.



The largest number of workers with quarterly earnings of \$15,000 or more (\$60,000+ annualized) were laid off from employment in manufacturing industries (1,011 workers) and construction (790 workers).

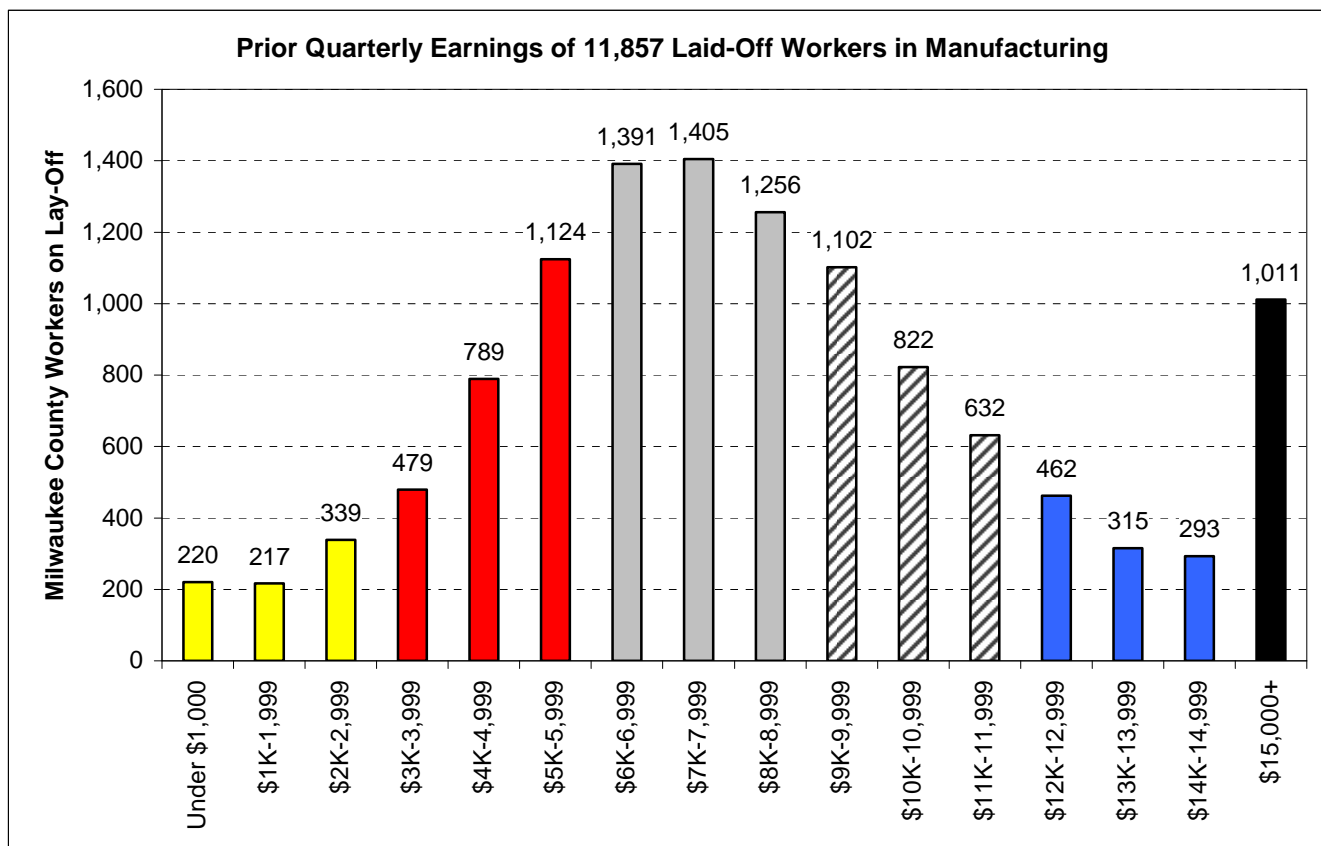




## A. Laid-Off Workers from the Manufacturing Industries

A total of 11,857 laid-off Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been working in manufacturing industries.

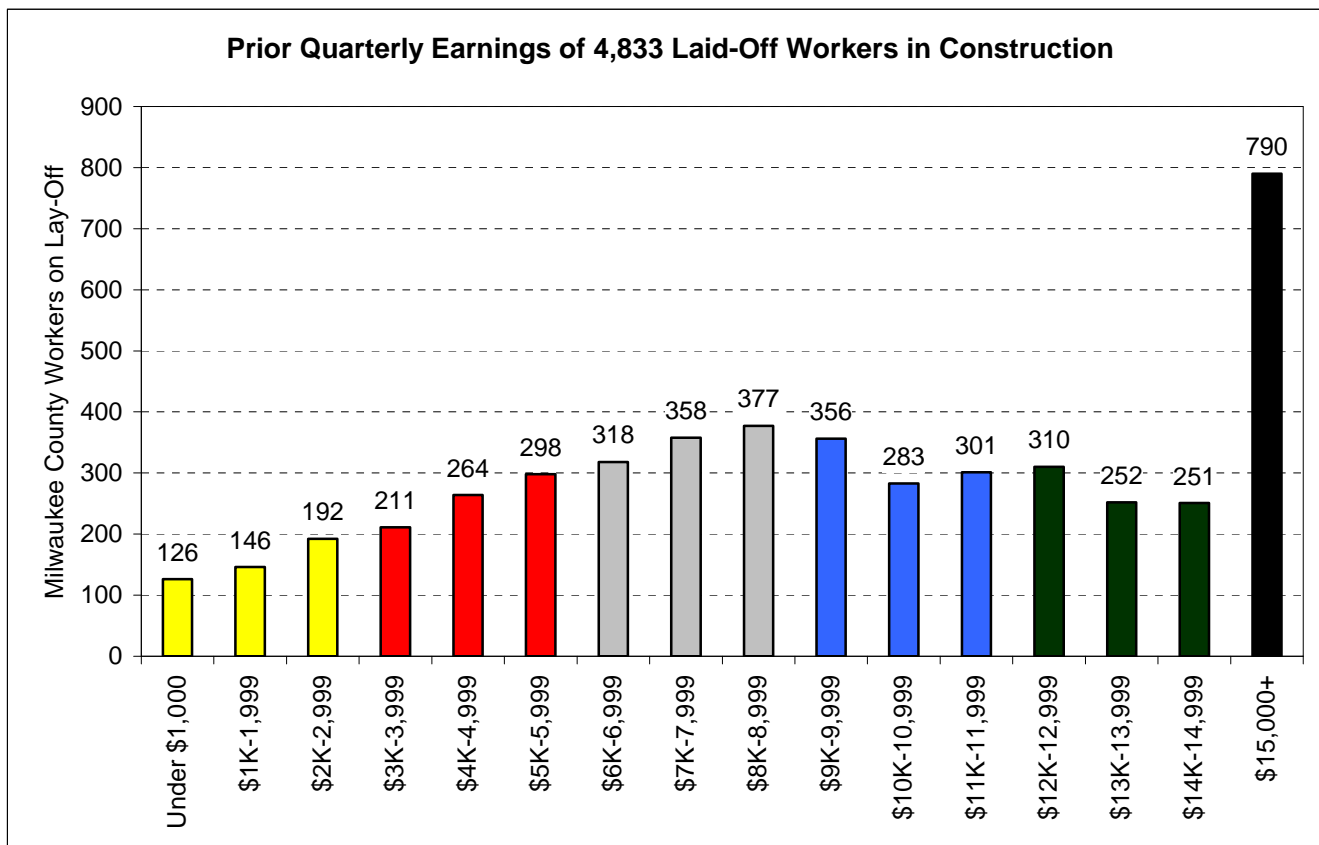
- Among the manufacturing workers on lay-off and receiving UI, 8% (1,011 workers) had been making \$15,000 or more a quarter (\$60,000+ annualized) and another 1,070 (9%) had been earning at least \$12,000 a quarter.
- A third (34%) had been earning from \$6,000 to \$8,999 (\$24,000-\$36,000 annualized).
- The manufacturing industry showed fewer low-wage earners, with 776 workers (6% of the total) on lay-off and receiving UI who had earned less than \$3,000 a quarter.



## B. Laid-Off Workers from the Construction Industries

A total of 4,833 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in construction industries. The work history, type of employer, and length of unemployment was examined for these workers.

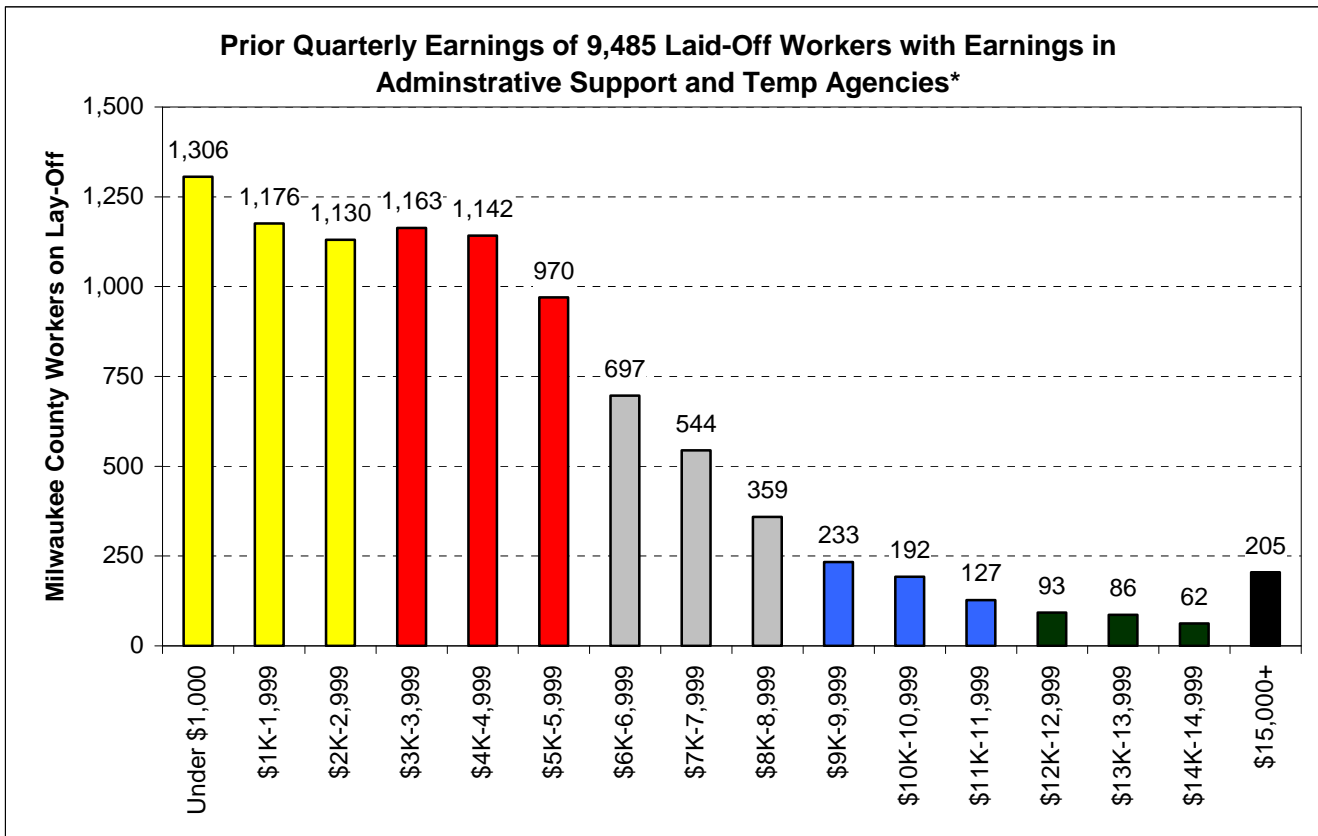
- Among the construction workers on lay-off and receiving UI, 790 (16% of the total) had been making \$15,000 or more a quarter (\$60,000+ annualized) and another 813 (17%) earned at least \$12,000 quarterly.
- At the lower end of the wage scale, 464 laid-off workers (or 10%) had earned less than \$3,000 a quarter and another 773 workers (16%) earned less than \$6,000 a quarter.



### C. Laid-Off Workers from Temp Agencies and Administrative Support Firms

A total of 9,485 of the Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance showed prior earnings working for temp agencies or other administrative support industries. Wages are combined for workers employed by more than one temp agency.

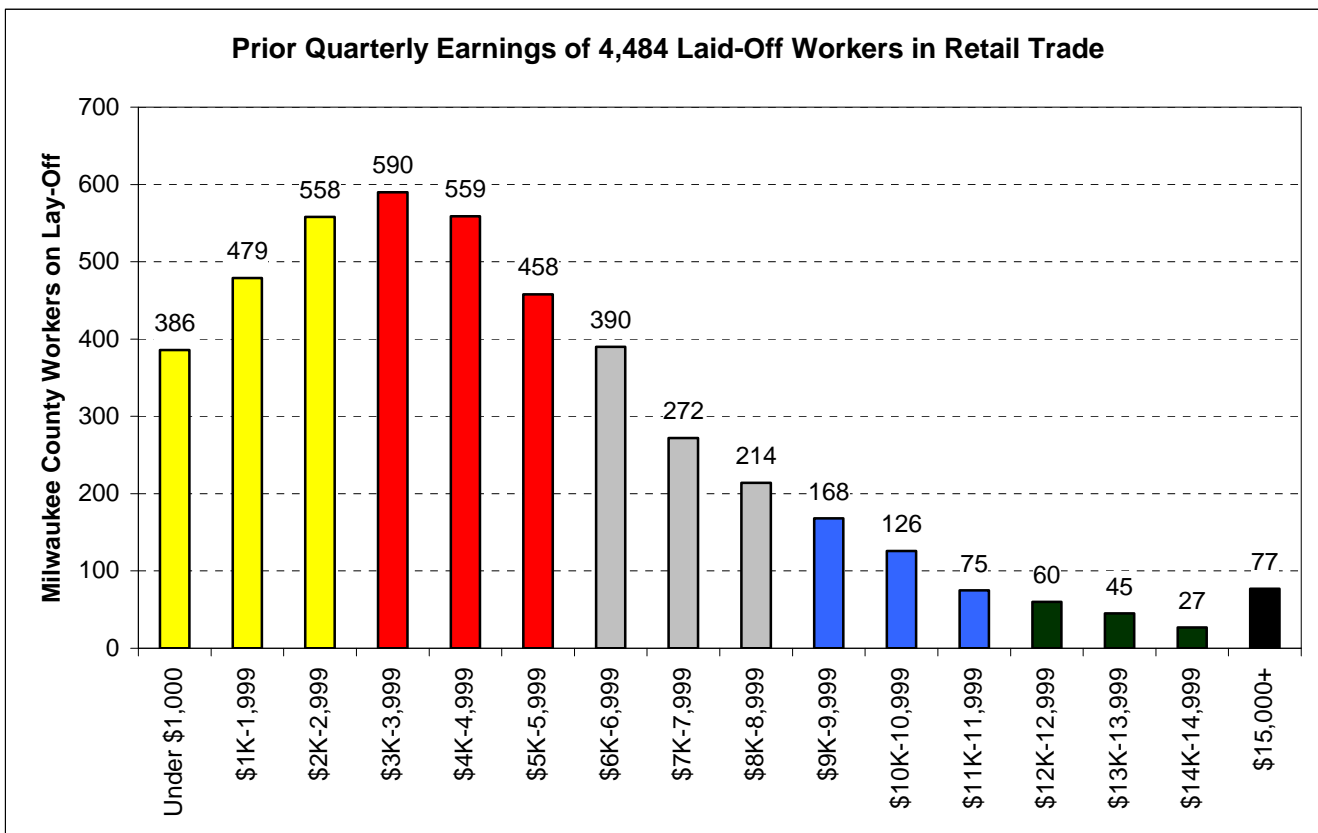
- This employment sector showed the highest concentrations of workers earning under \$3,000 in quarterly wages – 3,612, or 38% of the total working in the industry.
- Another 3,275 (34%) workers earned less than \$6,000 in quarterly wages.



#### D. Laid-Off Workers from Retail Trade Industries

A total of 4,484 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in retail trade industries. Workers laid off in this industry were far more likely to be lower-wage earners.

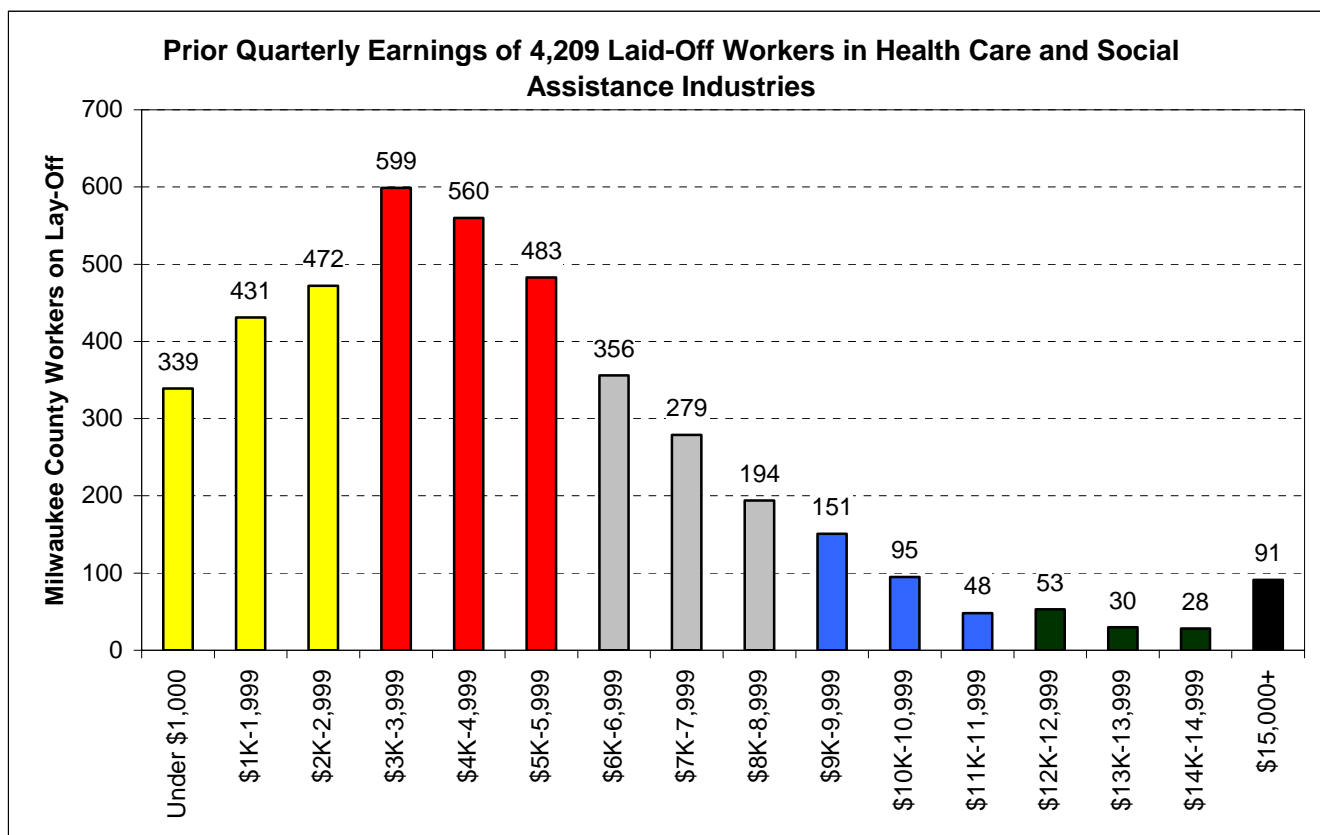
- A third of laid-off workers on UI (1,423 workers) had been earning less than \$3,000 quarterly (\$12,000 annualized) and two-thirds (3,030 workers) were earning less than \$6,000 quarterly.
- Only 209 of the lay-offs (5% of the total) affected workers earning \$12,000 or more a quarter.



## E. Laid-Off Workers from the Health Care and Social Assistance Industries

A total of 4,209 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in health care and social assistance industries. Workers laid off from jobs in the health care and social assistance industries skewed toward the lower end of the earnings scale.

- Over a fourth (1,242 workers, or 29%) of the laid-off workers had earned less than \$3,000 quarterly (\$12,000 per annum), and over half (2,401 or 57%) earned less than \$5,000 quarterly.
- Very few higher wage workers were laid-off and receiving UI. Only 202 workers (5%) in the health care or social assistance industries showed quarterly earnings of \$12,000 or more.

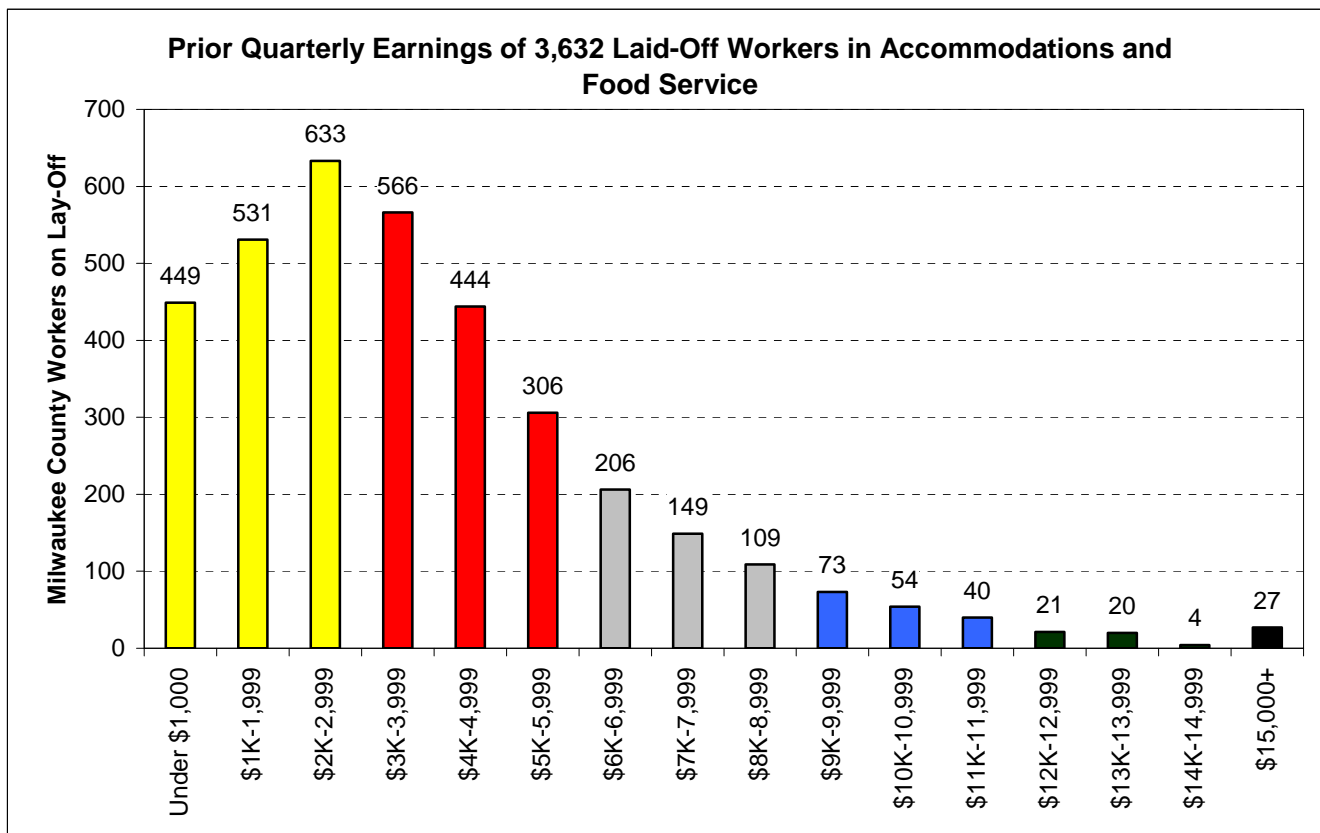




## F. Laid-Off Workers from the Accommodation and Food Service Industries

A total of 3,632 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in accommodation and food service industries. A majority of these workers had low quarterly earnings prior to layoff.

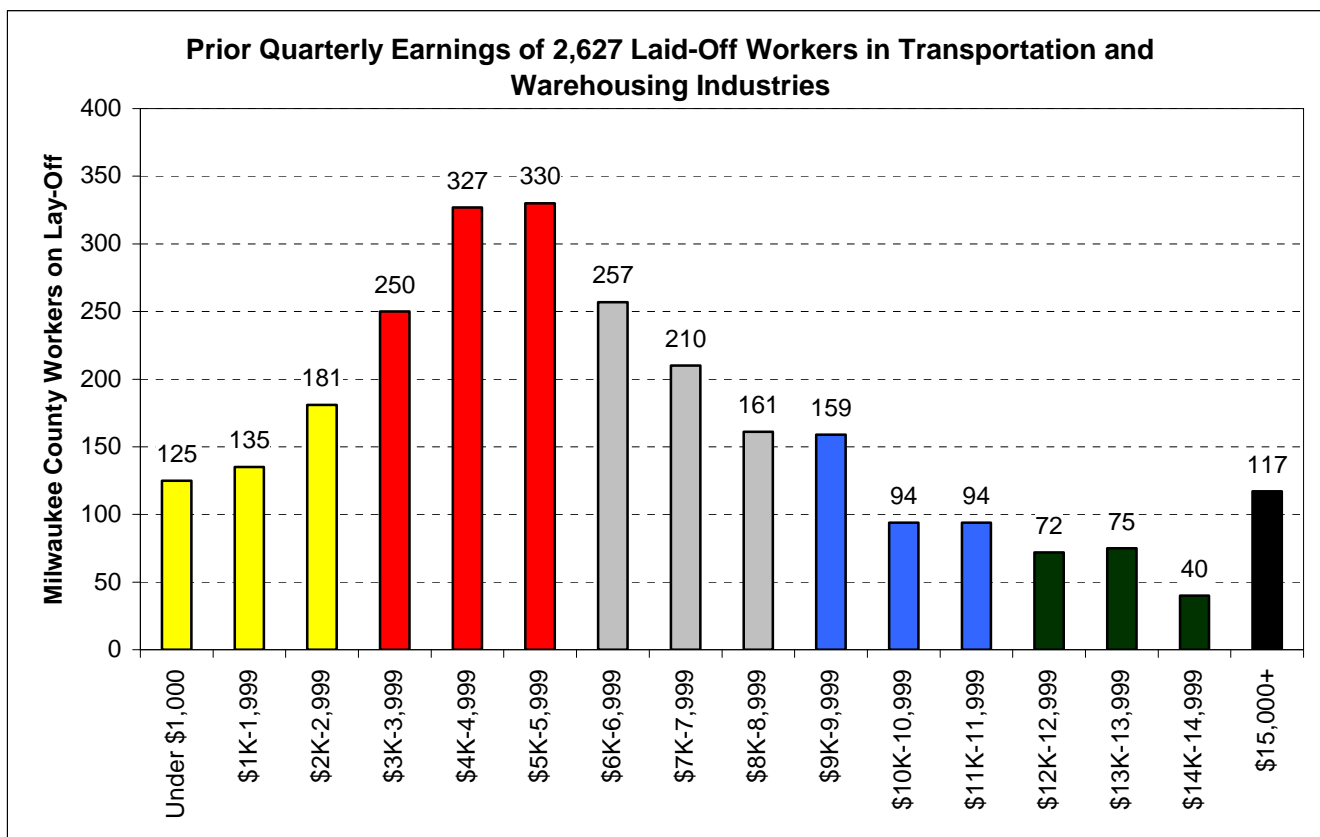
- Eighty-percent (2,929 workers) had quarterly earnings below \$6,000, including 1,613 workers (44% of the total) with prior quarterly earnings below \$3,000 (\$12,000 annualized).
- The UI file showed only 72 laid-off workers (2% of the total) from the accommodations and food service industries with prior quarterly earnings of \$12,000 or more.



## G. Laid-Off Workers from the Transportation and Warehousing Industries

A total of 2,627 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in transportation and warehousing industries.

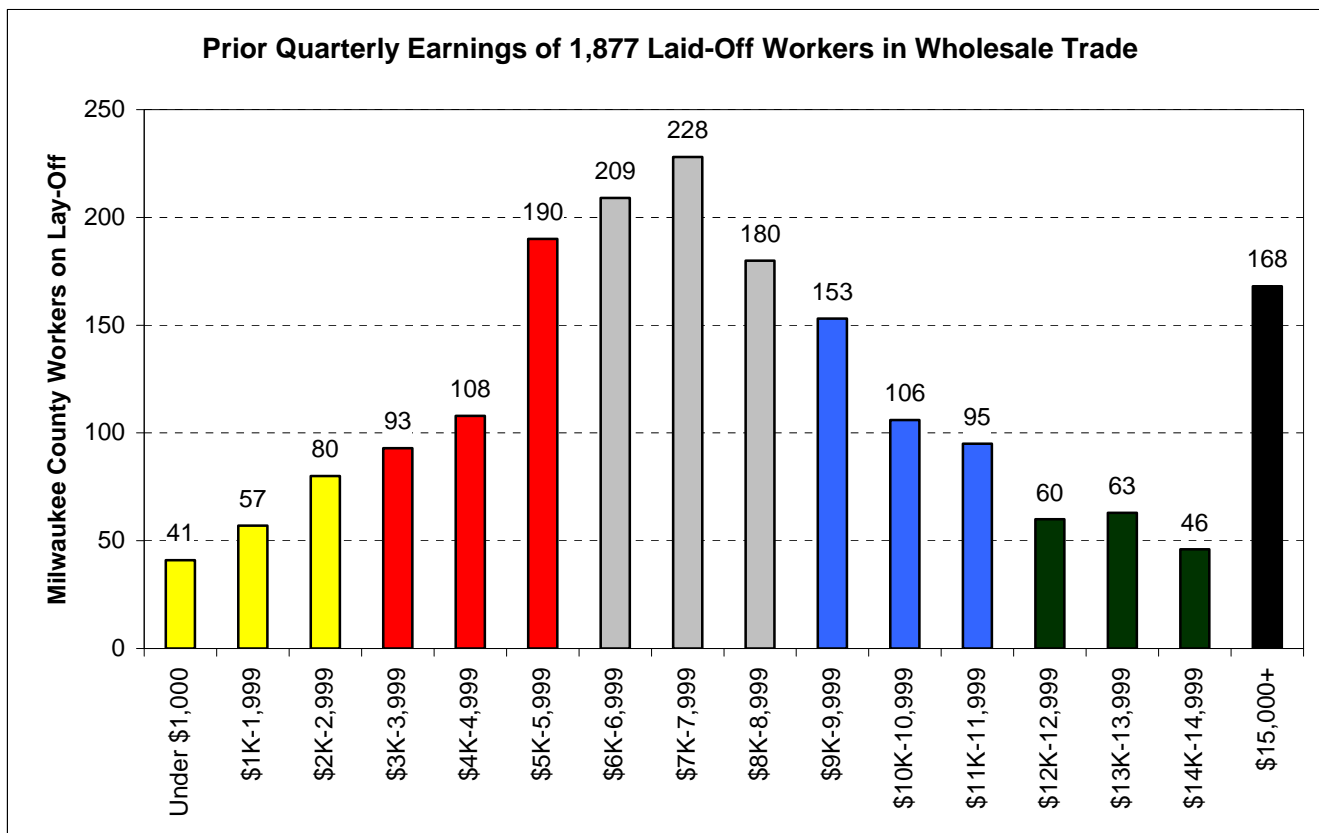
- Over half (52%, or 1,161 workers) of these employees had been concentrated in jobs paying \$3,000 to under \$7,000 a quarter.
- Another 441 workers (18%) had earned less than \$3,000 a quarter (\$12,000 annualized).
- Under 4% (117 workers) earned \$15,000 or more quarterly (\$60,000 annualized).



## H. Laid-Off Workers from Wholesale Trade Industries

A total of 1,877 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in wholesale trade industries. A majority of these workers had low quarterly earnings prior to layoff.

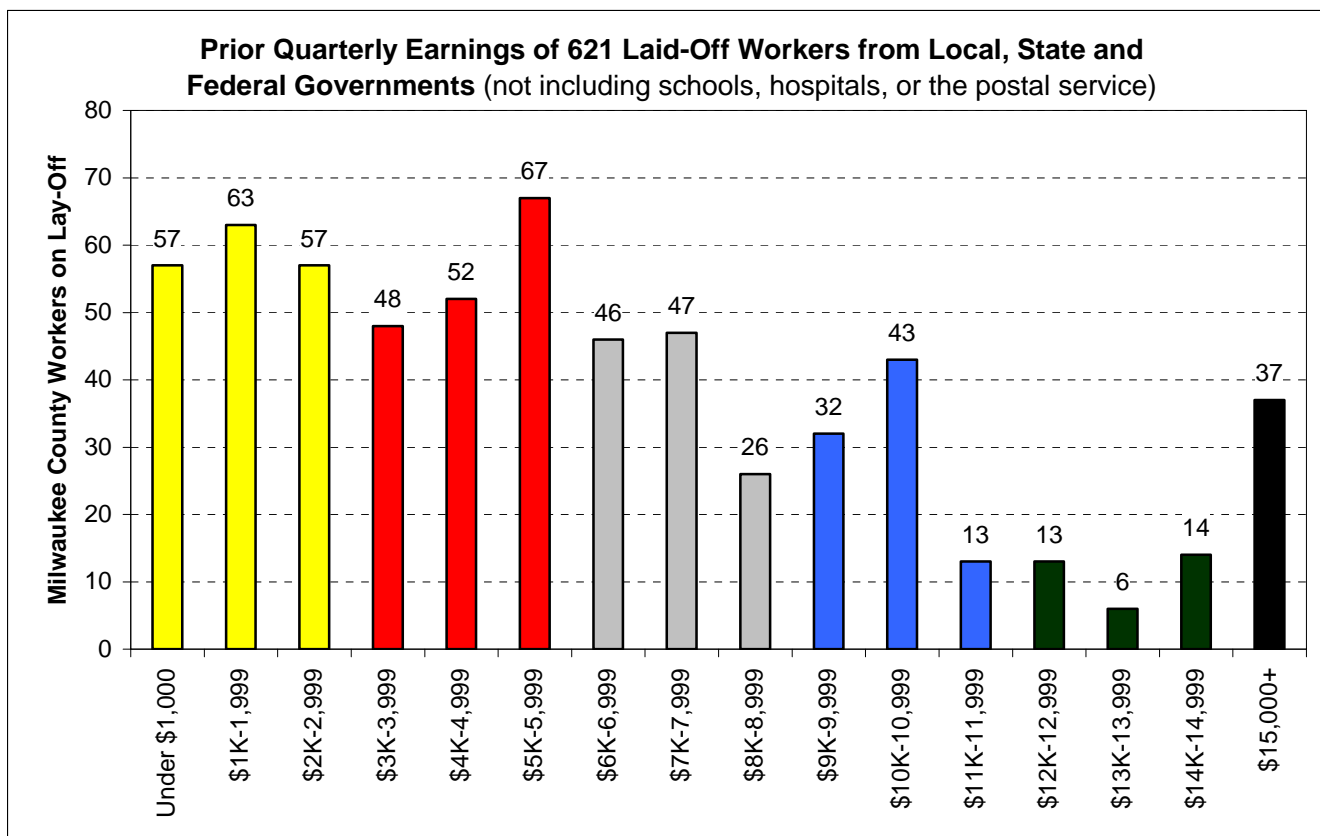
- This industry showed a wide range of wage workers facing layoffs, with the half of the layoffs (960 workers) clustered in the \$5,000 to under \$10,000 quarterly range.
- About 9% of workers were very low wages with quarterly earnings below \$3,000.
- A total of 337 workers (18%) had earnings of \$12,000 or above.



## I. Laid-Off Workers from Government

A total of 621 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in local, state and federal governments (not including schools, hospital and postal services, which are counted under other industry codes).

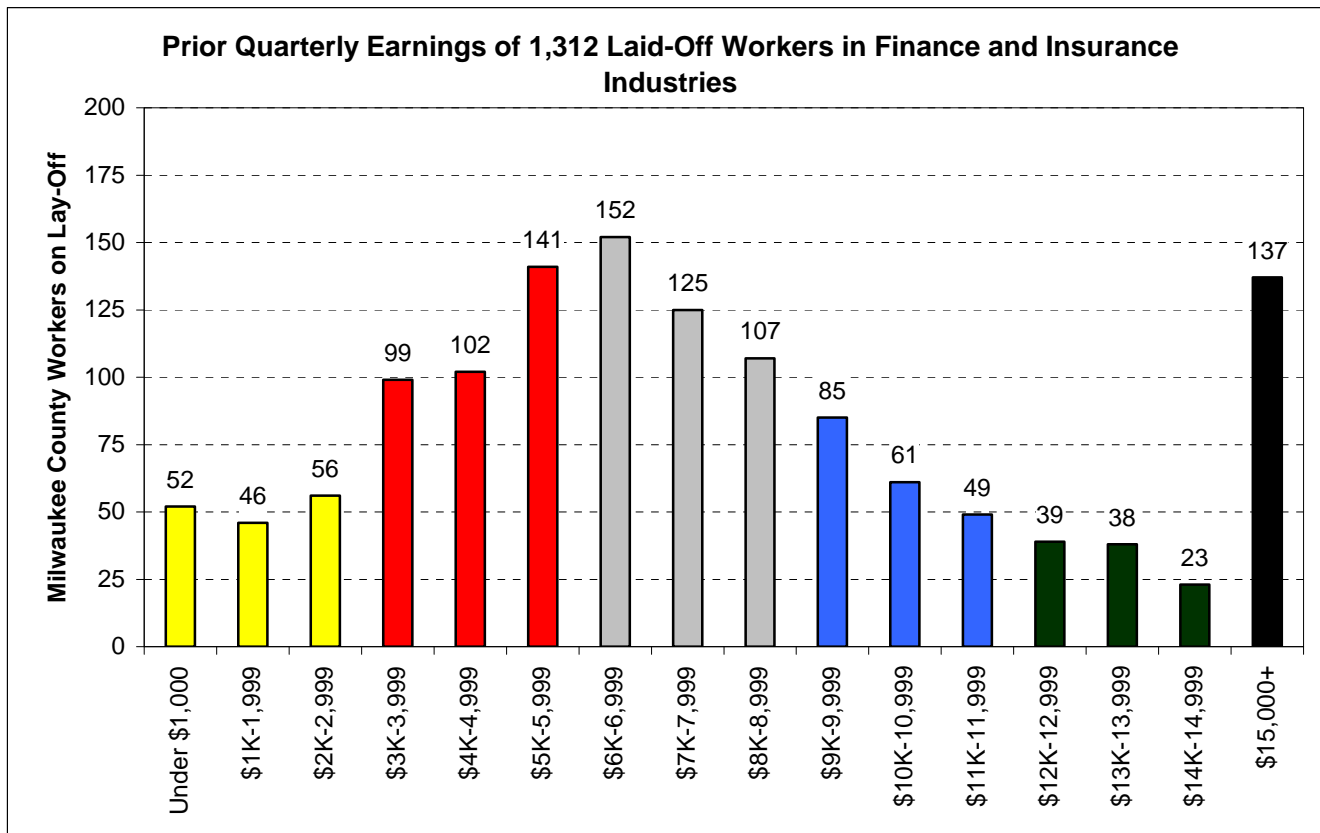
- Many of the laid-off workers were low-wage employees. More than a fourth (28%, or 177 workers) earned less than \$3,000 in prior quarterly wages.
- Another fourth (27%) earned less than \$6,000 a quarter.
- Only 70 workers (11%) were from the ranks of government employees earning \$12,000 or more in quarterly earnings (\$48,000+ annualized).



## J. Laid-Off Workers from Finance and Insurance Industries

A total of 1,312 Milwaukee County workers receiving unemployment insurance had been laid off from jobs in finance and insurance industries.

- On the higher salary end, 237 workers (18%) had prior quarterly earnings of at least \$12,000 (\$48,000 annualized).
- On the low-wage end, 154 workers (12%) earned less than \$3,000 quarterly, and another 342 workers (26%) earned less than \$6,000 in quarterly wages.







***Recent Employment and Training Institute releases on workforce development and training needs:***

**Survey of Job Openings in the 7 Counties of Southeastern Wisconsin: Week of May 25, 2009** describes the current level of job demand in the region by job title, occupational area, level of education and training required, and full-time and part-time openings. Findings are based on mail surveys, follow-up phone interviews, and website postings with 3,867 employers in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Waukesha, Racine, Ozaukee, Washington and Walworth counties. (2009)

**Understanding the Unemployed Workforce in Milwaukee County** examines the industries, employment patterns, and prior earnings of 48,131 workers in Milwaukee County who were laid off from their jobs and drew unemployment insurance benefits in Second Quarter of 2009. (2009)

**Ex-Offender Populations in Milwaukee County** explores the employment needs of 22,985 adult ex-offenders released to Milwaukee County from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and 8,167 adults on probation or parole. (2009)

**Health Occupation Drilldowns for Milwaukee County** profiles licensing patterns for currently state registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, dental hygienists, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, and physical therapist assistants from Milwaukee County. (2009)

**Occupational Shifts in Private Industry in the Milwaukee Metro Area** tracks 10-year declines in private sector blue collar jobs and large increases for professional workers, based on analysis of EEO-1 reports filed by companies with 100 or more workers. The EEO reports cover 339,669 private sector employees in the four-county area. (2009)

**Second Year Evaluation of the Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability** assesses driver's license recovery and employment outcomes for 862 Milwaukee County residents who completed case management services in the first sixteen months of the CDLRE program. (2008)

**The EARN (Early Assessment and Retention Network) Model for Effectively Targeting WIA and TANF Resources to Participants** outlines the advantages of implementing a large-scale comprehensive data-driven IT capacity to target employment interventions and increase post-program performance with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients. (2007)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute reports are available online at [www.eti.uwm.edu](http://www.eti.uwm.edu). *Milwaukee Drill photo courtesy of Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation*